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SOURCE Rybnoe khozyaystvo, No 5, 1949.FAR EAST USSR FLOUNDER INDUSTRY TO BE PUSHED

P. A. Moiseyev

Until recently fishing in the Far East was carried out mostly in coastal waters and as a result the majority of the catch was obtained with stationary equipment. Salmon and spawning herring were the main objectives of coastal fishing and in 1947 - 1948 comprised 70 percent of the total fish catch.

In 1947 and 1948, ice floes filled the coastal strip of the eastern shore of Kamchatka which made it impossible to set up seines. Thus, the catch during the spawning runs had to be abandoned. The melting snow on the banks of the Okhotsk and Ayan Rivers caused floods in the valleys of these rivers in 1947. This facilitated the catch of herring because of the wide areas of shallow water.

Finally, frequent storms on the shores of Kamchatka, Kurile Islands, and western Sakhalin make the catch extremely difficult with the use of fixed seines, sometimes tearing them off at the very moment that the fish are to be removed.

The 1948 catches were very good in some areas. Two million centners of mintay were taken from Koreyskiy Gulf (Broutona) in 3 months, the catch per trawler reaching 17,000 - 20,000 centners.

The flounder banks off the northern coast of Tatarskiy Strait are only a short distance from Sovetskaya Gavan', a large port serviced by railroad communications. The potential flounder catch there is more than 100,000 centners annually. The average catches per trawler are much higher in this vicinity than in southern Primorskiy Krai. The catch by lines alone runs as high as 90 - 120 centners.

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A considerable amount of flounder and cod are found on the banks of Sakhalin. In some years, up to 170,000 centners of flounder and up to 290,000 centners of cod have been caught here. Research has shown that the concentration of flounder is particularly high in the extreme southeast shoals during the winter.

There is also a great amount of flounder and cod on the southern banks of the Kurile Islands. An exceptionally large amount of flounder, cod, halibut and other bottom fish are found on the banks of Kamchatka and the neighboring banks of the Kurile Islands. The large area of shallow water makes it ideal as spawning grounds.

It is impossible to overestimate the volume of possible catch in the completely untouched reserves of Kamchatka flounder. Up to a million centners of large flounder, averaging from 420 to 1,000 grams, and sometimes reaching more than 3 kilograms, can be caught with very small expenditure of fishing time. The concentration is such that, during the winter, the trawler can take a full load of 2,000 - 2,500 centners in the course of 48 hours, and sometimes only 36 hours of fishing. In no other region in the world does such mass concentration exist. A similar situation prevails during the winter for combines of western Kamchatka and northern Kurile Islands near Petropavlovsk.

The Bering Sea has been little exploited but, according to knowledge thus far obtained, there is a wealth of cod, sea yersh of the perch family, mintay, flounder, and other bottom fish. It can safely be said that this body of water can serve as an active fishing area for a large trawler fleet.

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